
MEETING OF THE VATSIM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
QUARTER 2 – 2015
SATURDAY 25TH JULY 2015 20:00Z
LOCATION: ONLINE (TEAMSPEAK)

PRESENT:

- Thomas Mathieu (TM) – Acting RD VATSIM Africa Middle East
- Nicola Felini (NF) – RD VATSIM North America
- Mark Richards (MR, Chair) – RD VATSIM Oceania
- Federico Navarro (FN) – RD VATSIM South America
- Peter Nielsen (PN) – Vice President Regions
- Harv Stein (HS) – VATSIM Founder (present from 20:20z to 21:55z)

1. WELCOME

Meeting opened at 20:09z.

2. APOLOGIES

- Apostolos Damkalis (AD) – RD VATSIM Europe (proxy held by Nicola Felini)
- Anastasios Stefopoulos (AS) – RD VATSIM Asia
- Steven Cullen (SC) – VATSIM President

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Motion: Minutes from the previous meeting be taken as read and accepted.

Moved: NF. Seconded: MR. MOTION CARRIED.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

a. TRANSFER & VISITING CONTROLLER POLICY (NF)

NF has not yet completed the draft policy as he had some additional questions that he wanted to clarify and there was a possibility that some changes might have come from the GRP discussion.

It is expected that the policy will have very minor changes only.

ACTION: NF to circulate recommendations for proposed changes to the T&VC policy via the EC Mailing List for email vote.

b. UPDATE ON AFRICA DIVISIONS (TM)

MR welcomed TM into the Acting RD role for Africa/Middle East and thanked him for stepping in at short notice after Amir Paz stepped down. The meeting acknowledged Amir's work during his tenure as Regional Director.

There is still some work to do to stabilise the Africa Division but will take some time. The Region Team are working closely with the Africa Division. This will take a bit longer than planned but everything is on track.

c. GRP REVIEW (MR)

Motion: That the meeting move into Executive Session.

Moved: MR. Seconded: NF. MOTION CARRIED. Moved into Executive Session at 20:27z.

Motion: That the meeting move out of Executive Session.

Moved: MR. Seconded: NF. MOTION CARRIED. Moved out of Executive Session at 21:41z.

Following the discussion in Executive Session it was agreed that the closed forum discussion had yielded some invaluable information from the membership but that the issue that any changes were trying to address were not clear. HS provided some background from a Founder's perspective. While there have been some complaints about how long some people have taken to progress with Controller promotions, there has been little or no evidence to support delays and establishing this is difficult in the current environment. It was agreed that promotion tracking and benchmarking should be a feature of the revised applications being designed for replacing the current membership tracking databases.

There has been agreement that all current Major Airports and Special Centres will be reviewed by Divisions with the Regional Director with a clear goal to reduce the number within the next quarter.

The meeting felt that making changes to the current GRP without have evidence to support change was detrimental to the Network at this stage and that the GRP should remain unchanged other than agreed review of Designated Airspace by the Divisions affected.

Motion: That the GRP remain unchanged and leave as written.

Moved: NF. Seconded: FN. MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: MR to draft Comms to those involved in the closed forums to advise of the motion and another set of Comms for the wider membership and circulate these to the EC for approval.

It was further agreed that the complexity of registration for new members meant that it was often unclear how a user progressed from new member to controller, as they had to register for membership and then visit a number of different websites to understand ATC training and to provide clarity that Pilot/Obs members can fly anywhere, in any Region, at any time irrespective of their Home Region/Division.

ACTION: MR to write to Vice President Marketing and Strategic Development recommending the commissioning of a multi-lingual "welcome to VATSIM" video to explain the Network to feature prominently on the VATSIM Website.

d. *REGION NOTAMS (MR)*

No update. This item will be ongoing while a robust system is considered.

e. *CERT ACCESS FOR EC MEMBERS (MR)*

MR had confirmed that the CERT restrictions on the EC would remain as they currently stand. The new CERT is being developed and when that is finalized a new standard will be introduced. **ITEM CLOSED.**

f. *ASRC AS AN APPROVED CLIENT (MR)*

MR confirmed with the VP Network Systems that there are no immediate plans to withdraw ASRC from the list of approved clients. **ITEM CLOSED.**

5. **BOARD OF GOVERNORS REPORT (PN)**

- a. PN reported that with the exception of VP Technical Development, the BoG has full membership which is great
- b. Kieran Hardern is doing a fantastic job in his role as VP Web Services and producing many improvements that we have been seeking for a long time to move the Network forward. CERT v2.0 is proceeding well and will herald some many improvements for Regions and Divisions once it is implemented. There is no implementation date as KH has multiple tasks on the go at once.

6. **GENERAL BUSINESS**

a. *GREENLAND CHANGE OF REGION (NF)*

NF advises that Greenland is currently sitting under North America but is more aligned in the real world to Europe. A member has approached NF and AD to re-establish Greenland on VATSIM and there has been agreement to move Greenland to Europe.

**Motion: That it is propose to the Founders that Greenland move from North America to Europe.
Moved: NF. Seconded: MR. MOTION CARRIED.**

ACTION: PN to request the Founders to update the CoR to reflect this change.

ACTION: Once approved by the Founders MR to update the VATSIM Webpages for North America and Europe to reflect this change.

b. *AUTOMATED REGION TRANSFER AND ABUSE FOR PILOT/OBS MEMBERS (MR)*

MR reported that Kieran Hardern had advised that while the automated region transfer for Pilot/Obs rated members was working well, some members were moving between Regions multiple times and in some cases, several times in a day.

The meeting felt that this was further evidence of the complexity of registration and that it was not well understood by members.

Discussion was had that the requirements for Pilot/Obs members should still fit within the 90 day requirement to transfer between Regions but that there can be no requirement to have 50 hours in the current rating as the Pilot/Obs rating was an administrative rating only.

Motion: That the T&VC Policy be amended to ensure clarity about a member not transferring between Regions unless they have been in that Region for no less than 90 days.

Moved: MR. Seconded: NF. MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: NF to include this in the revised T&VC policy.

ACTION: MR to write to Kieran Hardern to advise him of the outcome and request that the script to automatically transfer Pilot/Obs members be updated and that the email advice that is sent to them includes information that they are entitled to fly anywhere, in any Region, at any time irrespective of their Home Region/Division.

c. *LOA BETWEEN NICOSIA VACC AND TEL AVIV VACC (TM)*

TM asked if there was a formal process for approving Letters of Approval between facilities. MR advised that there was no formal process and should be coordinated between the respective Regional Directors.

d. *BETTER USE OF DEPUTY REGIONAL DIRECTORS (MR)*

MR questioned the meeting about how we could make more productive use of the Deputy Regional Directors. NF advised that he used his Regional Team (not so much just the DRD) to assist the Divisions when they were short of a staff member to fill in so that the vacancy didn't cause a Division grief. PN stated that there was no requirement to have a DRD and that Regions might be better having an Operations Manager and a Membership Manager instead.

e. *HIT SQUAD (NF)*

NF questioned on the original purpose of the Hit Squad and on whose authority does the Hit Squad get involved and what are the reporting lines.

PN advised that Florian Harms is currently the Hit Squad Director and he reports to PN.

MR referred the EC to the Hit Squad page on the VATSIM website. When this was reviewed during the meeting it was established that the page did not make it clear how to request assistance from the Hit Squad.

ACTION: MR to update the Hit Squad webpage on the VATSIM Website.

f. BOSTON VIRTUAL ATC

NF outlined the work of Boston Virtual ATC in Boston with over 3000 members using the Flightsim networking components to have joint flights and ATC. Thee group had investigated better ways to interact with each and NF was pleased to report that the group agreed that VATSIM was a very professional organisation and have joined VATSIM for their Network. Congratulations to Don Desfosse (VATUSA Division Director) for his work with the group.

We need to learn from the group as to how we can leverage of this in other areas if similar groups exist.

g. CANADA

NF advised that Gary Feddema had been appointed as the Division Director for Canada.

It was pleasing that there was a strong field of candidates for the role, which was a great reflection on the Division. Gary is building a new leadership team to continue to develop the Division.

h. BRAZIL

FN advised that Gustavo Oliveira had been appointed as the Division Director for Brazil.

i. AFRICA/MIDDLE EAST REGION

TM announced that the new Region website has been released today. Plans to span this to multi-lingual to cater for the diverse membership in the Region.

TM is rebranding the region with the catch phrase "Strength in Diversity".

***As there was no further business, the meeting closed at 22:40z.
Next Meeting Saturday 24 October 2015 at 20:00z***
